



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/590,125

06/04/2007

Andre Schlienger

10139/04302

4059

76960

7590

07/15/2009

Fay Kaplun & Marcin, LLP
150 Broadway, suite 702
New York, NY 10038

EXAMINER

COTRONEO, STEVEN J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3733

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/15/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/590,125	Applicant(s) SCHLIENGER ET AL.	
	Examiner STEVEN J. COTRONEO	Art Unit 3733	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/18/2006 and 10/7/2008</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 21 and 22 are objected to because of the following informalities: the claims refer to cancelled claim 1. For examination proposes the claims will be treated as referring to independent claim 12. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 12-19 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perry (US 5,766,174) in view of Frigg et al. (US 5,041,115).

Perry discloses an intramedullary nail comprising: an elongated nail body having a proximal end, a distal end for insertion into the medullary canal, a central axis and a total length L; a proximal locking section (fig 4, 32), distal locking section (fig 4, 36), and isthmus locking section (fig 4,34) spaced along the length of the nail body, the proximal locking section nearest the proximal end, the distal locking section nearest the distal end, and the isthmus locking section located between the proximal and distal locking sections, and each locking section including a through- hole for receiving a locking screw; a first intermediate section (see fig 4 below) separating the proximal and isthmus locking sections, and a second intermediate section (see fig 4 below) separating the isthmus and distal locking sections, each intermediate sections having fewer through-

Art Unit: 3733

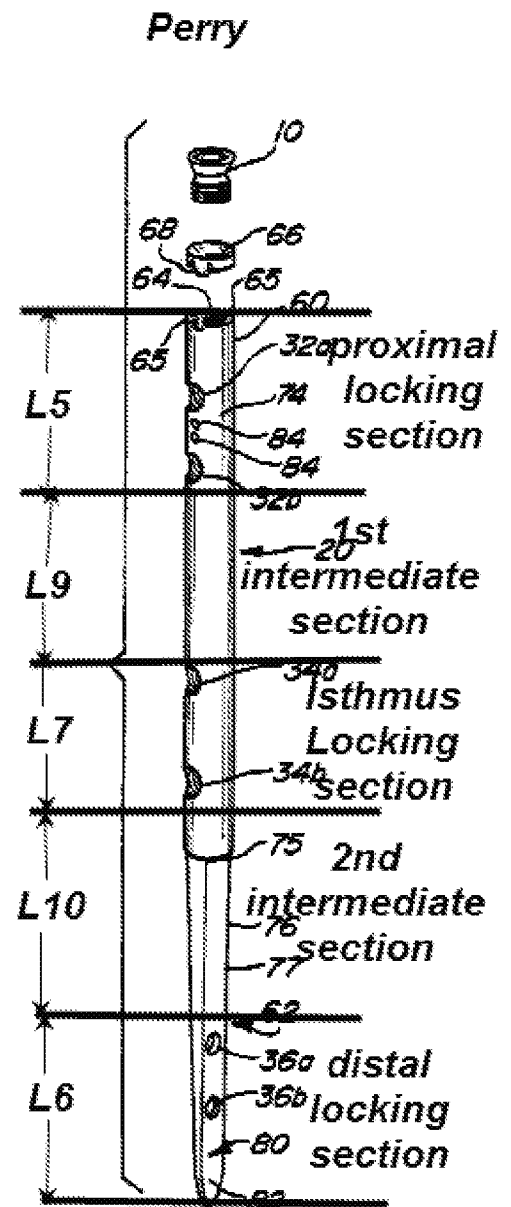
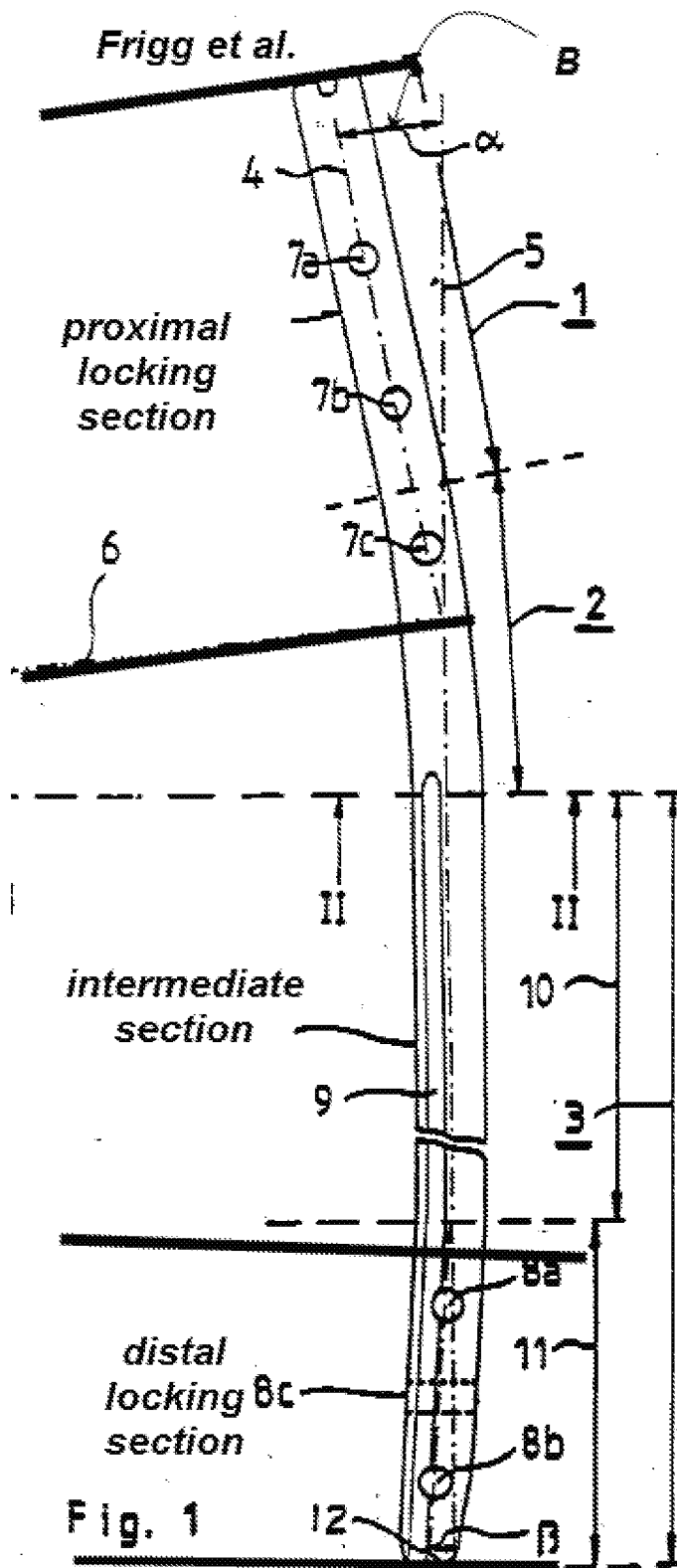
holes per unit length than the locking sections. The intermediate section has no through holes (fig 1).

Perry does not disclose wherein the proximal locking section forms an angle B with the intermediate section, where B is in the range of $7^{\circ} < B < 13^{\circ}$.

Frigg et al. a proximal locking section forms an angle B with the intermediate section (see fig 1 below), where B is in the range of $7^{\circ} < B < 13^{\circ}$ (col. 4 ll. 40-42, "8 to about 18 degrees") to allow for use in the tibia (abstract).

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Perry with the proximal locking section forming an angle B with the intermediate section, where B is in the range of $7^{\circ} < B < 13^{\circ}$ in view of Frigg et al. in order to allow for use in the tibia.

Art Unit: 3733



Art Unit: 3733

As to claims 14 to 19, Perry in view of Frigg et al. discloses the claimed invention except for L5 is between .22L and .28L; L6 is between .18L and .22L; L7 is between .08L and .15L; L9 is between .27L and .33L; L10 is between .13L and .30L; and L10 plus L6 is between .32L and .5L. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the device with L5 is between .22L and .28L; L6 is between .18L and .22L; L7 is between .08L and .15L; L9 is between .27L and .33L; L10 is between .13L and .30L; and L10 plus L6 is between .32L and .5L, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. In re Aller, 105 USPQ 233.

Claims 20 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perry (US 5,766,174) in view of Frigg et al. (US 5,041,115) further in view of Leu et al. (US 6,270,499).

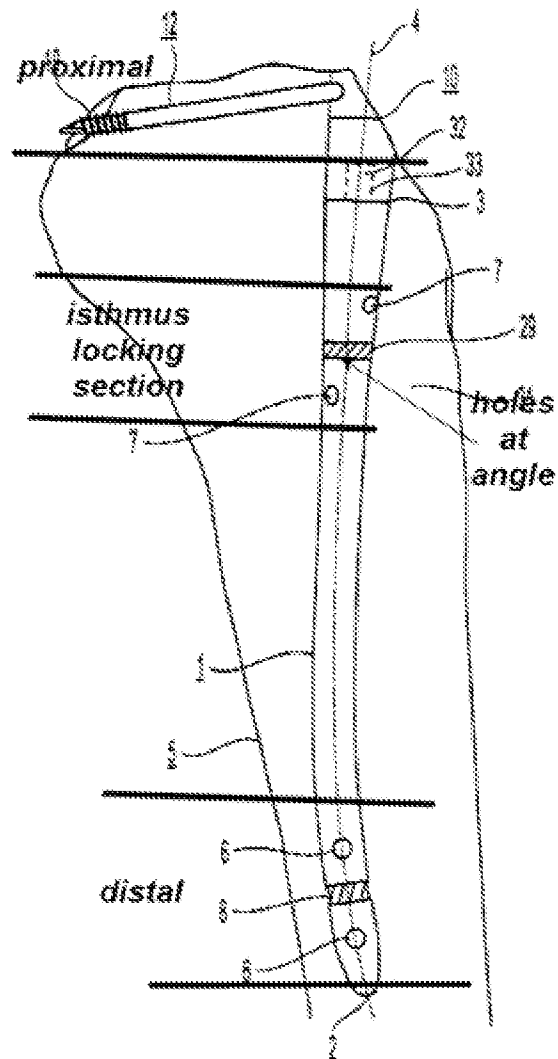
Perry in view of Frigg et al. discloses the claimed invention except for the isthmus locking section includes two through holes arranged at a relative angle A in the range of $60^{\circ} \sim 120^{\circ}$.

Leu et al. discloses the isthmus locking section includes two through holes arranged at a relative angle A in the range of $60^{\circ} \sim 120^{\circ}$ (see fig 1 below) to allow accurate positioning of the intramedullary nail in the intramedullary space.

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Perry in view of Frigg et al. with the isthmus locking section includes two through holes arranged at a relative angle θ_t in the range of $60^{\circ} \sim$

Art Unit: 3733

120° in view of Leu et al. in order to allow accurate positioning of the intramedullary nail in the intramedullary space.



Ag 1

Conclusion

The prior art made of record on PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Art Unit: 3733

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to STEVEN J. COTRONEO whose telephone number is (571)270-7388. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 730-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on 571-272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. J. C./
Examiner, Art Unit 3733

/Eduardo C. Robert/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3733